

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /035 W

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R 231331Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4148

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4918

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, KU

SUBJ: INFORMATION ON MEAT IMPORTS

REF: STATE 257756

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL.
INFORMATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1974 AS SUPPLIED BY
KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD.

A. TOTAL IMPORTS FOR 1974 APPROX. 10,000 TONS AT VALUE
OF US \$14 MILLION. STATISTICS INCLUDE MUTTON, LAMB, VEAL
AND BEEF. WE ESTIMATE APPROX 75 PERCENT OF THIS IS LAMB
OR MUTTON, AND MOST OF REMAINDER IS BEEF. VEAL SOLD ONLY
IN SMALL QUANTITIES BY STORES CATERING TO EXPATRIATES.

B. MUTTON AND LAMB AVAILABLE FRESH AND LOCAL BUTCHERS CUT
CARCASS TO CUSTOMERS' CHOICE. OF THE FROZEN MUTTON, LAMB,
VEAL AND BEEF IMPORTED HERE MOST CUTS ARE ROASTS, FILLETS,
STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF. THESE USUALLY IMPORTED FROM
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND OR EUROPE, PRINCIPALLY DENMARK.
US STYLE CUTS OF MEAT ARE MAIMLY FOR EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY.
MAJORITY OF POPULATION EATS MEAT IN STEWS OR CURRIES AND
NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SPECIAL CUTS OF MEAT.

C. QUALITY IS COMPARABLE TO US GOOD OR CHOICE.

D. CURRENT C&F PRICES ARE APPROX 75 CENTS PER POUND FOR
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LAMB, 70 CENTS PER POUND FOR MUTTON AND 90 CENTS PER POUND

FOR BEEF (ALL FROZEN).

2. LARGEST SUPPLIERS OF FRESH AND FROZEN MEATS TO KUWAIT LAST YEAR WERE SUDAN, TURKEY, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA AND ARGENTINA. US EXPORTED APPROX 61,000 POUNDS VALUED AT APPROX \$74,000. PRINCIPAL IMPORTERS OF US BEEF ARE LOCAL HILTON HOTEL AND ONE OF SEVERAL MERCHANTS WHO CATER TO EUROPEAN AND US COMMUNITY.

3. MARKET FOR ANY FOOD PRODUCT IN KUWAIT SMALL GIVEN LESS THAN ONE MILLION POPULATION. FURTHERMORE, LOCAL TASTES AS INDICATED IN PARA 1B, DO NOT RPT NOT DEMAND US SUPERMARKET-STYLE CUTS OF BEEF. MAIN INTEREST THIS TYPE PRODUCT COMES FROM SMALL BUT GROWING EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY.

4. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INQUIRIES RE EXPORTING US BEEF TO KUWAIT AND FREIGHT RATES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MAJOR PROBLEM. US COMPANY HAS STARTED NEW SHIPPING SERVICE TO KUWAIT USING SMALL REFRIGERATED SHIPS. PROSPECTIVE EXPORTERS MAY WISH CONTACT ARNE PETERSON, MIDDLE EAST REEFER SERVICE, POBOX 859, GLOUCESTER, MASS 01930 TO GET MORE INFO ON SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, MEATS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT04918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-0512
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751118/aaaaapzj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 257756
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION ON MEAT IMPORTS
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, KU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006